

REMARKS

Prior to examination, please amend the enclosed continuation application as shown above.

In the Final Office Action of April 22, 2003, the Examiner rejected all of the claims either under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,745,015 (Cheng et al.), or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '015 Patent in view of U.S. 6,038,830 (Hirath et al.). In response thereto, applicant has now amended Claim 11, the only independent claim in the application, in a way which more closely reflects the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2. Specifically, claim 11 recites a sealing profile having U-shaped cross section with one open end. A metal foil is integrated onto an outside surface of the sealing profile as a vapor barrier and also has a U-shaped cross section with an open end, and is oriented in parallel to the U-shaped cross section of the sealing profile. The arms of the sealing profile and of the metal foil extend along the first and second sheet metal walls thereby enabling them to maintain a high vacuum in the evacuated cavity.

It is submitted, that such structure is not disclosed nor suggested by the '015 Patent alone or in combination with the '830 Patent. The structure taught by the '015 Patent consists of flat layers and rectangular blocks. Thus, plastic substrate 5 is a rectangular block, plastic barriers 6 and 8 are flat layers, and the metal barrier 7 is also a flat layer. Accordingly, there is no structure taught in the '015 Patent which is hollow

and has a U-shaped cross section with an open end, which corresponds to the sealing profile of claim 11. Nor does the '015 Patent teach a metal foil integrated onto an outside surface of the sealing profile, which metal foil also has a U-shaped cross section oriented in parallel to the U-shaped cross section of the sealing profile. Nor is there any teaching in the '015 Patent of a sealing profile and a metal foil having arms extending along the walls of the sheet metal walls which enable them to maintain a high vacuum in the evacuated cavity.

It is further submitted that the insulating member of claim 11 provides an important advantage over the structure taught in the '015 Patent, namely, the ability to maintain a high vacuum in the evacuated cavity for an extended period of time. Thus, the vacuum is maintained in the evacuated cavity primarily by the metal foil which serves as a vapor barrier. In the structure taught by the '015 Patent, the silver layer 7 is flat and the region in which it makes contact with the walls 2 is very short, being limited by the width of the edge silver layer 7. In contrast, the metal foil of claim 11 has a U-shaped cross-section with arms extending along the sheet metal walls. The area of contact between the walls and the metal foil is equal to the length of these arms as can be seen in Fig. 2. The extensive area of contact between the metal foil and the sheet metal walls results in a much more efficient vapor barrier. The chance that a molecule from the atmosphere will penetrate the vapor barrier of claim 11 is much less than its chance of penetrating vapor barrier 7 of the '015 Patent.

The '830 Patent does not remedy the deficiencies of the '015 Patent. As in the case of the '015 Patent, the '830 Patent simply does not teach a sealing profile and a metal foil with U-shaped cross sections and arms extending along the parallel sheet metal walls, with the metal foil serving as a vapor barrier.

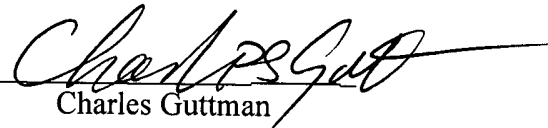
It is therefore believed that applicant's invention, as claimed herein, is neither anticipated nor rendered unpatentable by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application proceed to a favorable examination.

Respectfully submitted,
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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PROSKAUER ROSE LLP
1585 Broadway
New York, NY 10036-8299
Telephone: (212) 969-3000

By 
Charles Guttman
Reg. No. 29,161

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure